

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6008

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6216

NO FORN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TO, KS, KN

SUBJ: TOGO BREAKS RELATIONS WITH ROK

REF A LOME 2137 B. SEOUL 6152 (NOTAL) C LOME 2114

1. MOFA REACTION TO BREAK IN RELATIONS BY TOGO IS ONE OF RESIGNATION. AFRICA DIVISION CHIEF LEE TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 18 THAT MOFA AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF SHIN KEE HEUM, CURRENTLY IN ABIDJAN AS HEAD OF SPECIAL ROK UN TASK FORCE (REF B), HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PROCEED TO LOME IMMEDIATELY TO FURTHER EXPLORE TOGO POSITION.

2. HOWEVER, LEE SAID MOFA HAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA WAS BOUGHT OFF BY NORTH KOREA AND WILL THEREFORE NOT RECONSIDER. IN ADDITION TO EYADEMA'S RECEPTION IN PYONGYANG, REPORTED REF C AND CONFIRMED BY EXTENSIVE NORTH KOREAN PRESS OUTPUT REPORTED BY FBIS, LEE SAID MOFA HAS INFORMATION THAT NORTH KOREANS OFFERED TOGO A LOAN OF AT LEAST TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS TO ENSURE TOGO'S SUPPORT FOR THE

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NORTH ON THE KOREAN QUESTION.

3. GIVEN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF TOGOLESE CASE,
INVOLVING VERY SMALL AFRICAN COUNTRY AND VERY LARGE
NORTH KOREAN EXPENDITURE, MOFA IS NOT FEARFUL THAT
OTHER AFRICAN STATES WILL FOLLOW SUIT AND BREAK
RELATIONS WITH ROK. NONETHELESS, ACCORDING TO LEE,
INSTRUCTIONS HAVE GONE OUT TO ALL ROK AFRICAN POSTS
TO DISSUADE HOST GOVERNMENTS FROM CHANGING KOREAN
POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN UN, AS RESULT OF TOGO'S ACTION.

4. MAIN REGRET BY MOFA SEEMS TO BE AT HAVING BEEN
OUT-MANEUVERED BY NORTH--NOT WITH RESPECT TO GAINING
TOGOLESE SUPPORT BUT WITH RESPECT TO BREAKING RELATIONS.
ACCORDING TO LEE, MOFA WAS IN PROCESS OF DECIDING TO
CLOSE ITS EMBASSY IN LOme AS EXPRESSION OF DISPLEASURE
AT TOGOLESE COSPONSORSHIP OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION.
WHILE LEE ASSURED EMBOFF THAT ROKG NOT CONSIDERING
SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY, HE
ACKNOWLEDGED FRANKLY THAT ROK HAD NO INTEREST IN TOGO
EXCEPT WITH REGARD TO UN.

5. COMMENT: FACT THAT TOGO HAS MOVED FIRST AND
SEVERED RELATIONS WITH ROK HAS CAUSED SOME MINOR
CONCERN IN MOFA OVER POSSIBLE EFFECT ON THIRD-COUNTRY SUPPORT
FOR ROK IN UN, BUT OTHERWISE ROKG APPEARS CONTENT TO LEAVE TOGO
TO THE NORTH KOREANS. FOR OUR PART, EMBASSY NOTES FACT THAT
TOGO'S STATED REASON FOR SEVERING RELATIONS IS
APPARENTLY THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES IN ROK, A
SLAP AT OURSELVES AS WELL AS ROK.
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